

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

April 26, 2006

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Madison, Wisconsin -- Stephen P. Sinnott, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced the unsealing of an indictment charging Michael E. Luepke, DOB 1/24/79, of Rice Lake, Wisconsin, with three drug offenses. The indictment was returned by a federal grand jury sitting in Madison on April 19, 2006. Luepke made an initial appearance in U.S. District Court in Madison yesterday.

The indictment alleges that from July 2004 to July 2005, Luepke conspired to distribute and possess with intent to distribute methamphetamine, with the conspiracy involving 50 grams or more of the drug. The indictment also alleges that Luepke distributed methamphetamine on February 5, 2005 and March 29, 2006. If convicted, Luepke faces a mandatory minimum penalty of five years and a maximum penalty of 40 years in federal prison on the conspiracy count, and 20 years on each of the distribution counts.

The charges against Luepke are the result of an investigation conducted by the Barron-Rusk Drug Task Force and the Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigation-Narcotics Bureau. The prosecution of this case has been assigned to Assistant U.S. Attorney Peter M. Jarosz.

You are advised that a charge is merely an accusation and that a defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

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